

**REMARKS**

**35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph**

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the invention.

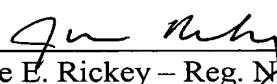
Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 5 was amended to remove the intended use language. Claim 4 was amended to broaden the scope of claim coverage.

**35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Fike (U.S. Patent 6,086,811; Figures 1, 2 and 8-14). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons. Claim 1 was amended to remove the stationary limitation and to include holding means for maintaining the inner segments at relatively constant dimension during molding.

In light of this amendment, all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are allowable. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
June E. Rickey -- Reg. No. 40,144  
Attorney for Applicants

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company  
Department 823  
1144 East Market Street  
Akron, Ohio 44316-0001  
Telephone: (330) 796-3328  
Facsimile: (330) 796-9018